<u>**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**</u>

<u>**IN THE CLAIMS**</u>

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1.   (Amended) A method for entering contents of a franking imprint into a postage meter machine, said postage meter machine having an electronic, digitally operating printer and said contents being employed for printing said franking imprint with said printer, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a set of data in a non-volatile<u>, non-removable</u> memory of said postage meter machine by <u>permanently</u> programming said additional data at [said] <u>a</u> manufacturing location, said data being selected from the group consisting of different country-specific data and different carrier-specific data;

installing a data communication interface in said postage meter machine; and

configuring said franking imprint of said postage meter machine [dependent on] <u>prior to use at a use location remote from said manufacturing location for</u> at least one of a selected carrier and a selected country, by communicating with said postage meter machine via said interface, to select at least one of said permanently programmed carrier-specific data and country-specific <u>from said non-removable memory</u> data.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3.   (Amended)   A method as claimed in claim 2 comprising storing said [additional] <u>set of</u> data in said [non-interchangeable] <u>non-removeable</u> memory of said postage meter machine in a non-erasable manner at said manufacturing location,

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and subsequently selecting [from a plurality] among said of different carrier-specific data[, in said additional data,] by communicating via said interface with a country-specific chip card inserted into said chip card reader, and setting an inhibit bit in said [non-interchangeable] non-volatile memory after removing said chip card to prevent any further configuration of said postage meter machine.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said [additional data includes carrier-specific data and country-specific data, and wherein] chip card makes both a carrier-specific selection among said different carrier specific data and a country-specific selection [are made using said chip card] among said different country-specific data.

Please cancel claim 8.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Amended) An arrangement for entering contents of a franking imprint into a postage meter machine comprising:

a chip card reader adapted to receive a chip card therein containing selection data;

a franking imprint memory into which data representing a franking imprint are loadable;

a microprocessor connected to said chip card reader;

a permanently installed non-volatile memory connected to said microprocessor, said non-volatile memory containing memory areas [for storing data for producing said franking imprint] in which different carrier-specific data and different country specific data are stored; and

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said microprocessor receiving said selection data from [said chip card reader for a franking imprint from] a chip card inserted in said chip card reader and loading [said] at least one of carrier-specific data and country-specific data into said franking imprint memory [areas] from said non-volatile memory dependent on said selection data to configure said franking imprint and thereafter inhibiting said franking imprint memory to prevent any further configuration thereof.

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